

ANNCR:

PROFESSIONALS AND THOUGHT LEADERS FROM THIRTEEN INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES AND ELSEWHERE WILL ATTEND A SIX-DAY DISCUSSION ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL OPENING SUNDAY IN NEW DELHI. VOA'S FRED BROWN HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-FIVE PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PARLIAMENTARIANS, ACADEMICIANS, JOURNALISTS, BUSINESSMEN, AND LABOR LEADERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SIX DAYS OF PRIVATE DISCUSSION. THEY WILL BE EXCHANGING VIEWS, DISCUSSING IDEAS AND PROPOSALS, AND EXAMINING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DISARMAMENT--PARTICULARLY AS THEY AFFECT NATIONS IN THIS REGION OF THE WORLD.

A GOOD PROPORTION OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WILL BE REPRESENTED, INCLUDING COUNTRIES AS FAR AWAY AS AUSTRALIA, AND TANZANIA. INDIA AND PAKISTAN WILL TAKE PART, AS WILL BANGLADESH AND SRI LANKA. BOTH BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO BE REPRESENTED. THE SOVIET UNION WAS TO TAKE PART BUT THE SOVIET DELEGATE WHO HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND NOTIFIED THE SPONSORS A FEW DAYS AGO THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO COME BECAUSE OF FAMILY PROBLEMS. ANOTHER NOTABLE ABSENTEE IS CHINA, WHICH USUALLY DOES NOT TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.

THE NEW DELHI CONFERENCE, OR COLLOQUIUM, AS IT IS CALLED, IS SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE ACADEMY, A PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BASED IN NEW YORK, WHICH CONDUCTS TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN PEACE-RELATED FUNCTIONS. (OPT) AMONG THE ACADEMY ADVISORS ARE SUCH NOTABLES

AS J.S.O. ADEBO OF NIGERIA, LIEUTENANT GENERAL ODD BULL OF NORWAY, WRITER NORMAN COUSINS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND INDIA'S FORMER U.N. AMBASSADOR, ARTHUR LALL, NOW A PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. (END OPT)

IN ITS SEVEN YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE ACADEMY IS CREDITED WITH MEDIATION EFFORTS IN SUCH AREAS AS THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, AND RHODESIA. ACADEMY OFFICIALS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HAVE PRODUCED WHAT THEY SAY IS THE WORLD'S ONLY MANUAL FOR TRAINING PEACE-KEEPING OFFICERS. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FRANKNESS IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, ALL SESSIONS ARE CLOSED, AND THE RULES SPECIFY THAT THE COMMENTS OF DELEGATES MAY NOT BE QUOTED OUTSIDE THE MEETING ROOM. HOWEVER, CONFEREES ARE EXPECTED TO DRAFT A REPORT TO BE MADE PUBLIC ON THE LAST DAY.

(OPT) A STATEMENT SETTING FORTH THE AIMS OF THE NEW DELHI MEETING EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE CONTROL OF THE WEAPONS OF WAR IS INTIMATELY RELATED TO THE EFFORTS TO SOLVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS PEACEFULLY. THE NEW DELHI MEETING IS DESCRIBED AS AN EFFORT TO BRING NEW IMPETUS TO DISARMAMENT BY ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FROM LEADERS OF THOUGHT OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT. (END OPT)

WJC